



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,704	03/30/2004	Hiroharu Sakai	16869N-112400US	7216

20350 7590 12/07/2006

TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

GUPTA, PARUL H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2627

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/814,704

Applicant(s)

SAKAI ET AL.

Examiner

Parul Gupta

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/30/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7 are pending for examination as interpreted by the examiner. The IDS filed on 03/30/2004, 02/21/2006, and 06/26/2006 were considered.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is longer than a single paragraph consisting of 150 words or less. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1 and 3 recite the limitation "by computation" in the second paragraph. The language is vague and indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobs et al., US Patent 5,802,032.

Regarding claim 2, Jacobs et al. discloses a write power control method of an optical disk drive, said method comprising the steps of: obtaining disk position information of an optical pickup at the time of writing (column 8, lines 44-51); with reference to the obtained disk position information and stored optimum write power information associated with a disk radial position, setting optimum write power at a

writing position of an optical disk; and controlling laser power of the optical pickup so as to become the set optimum write power (column 7, lines 35-64).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobs et al., in view of Nagasawa et al., US Patent 6,016,297.

Regarding claim 1, Jacobs et al. discloses a write power control method of an optical disk drive, said method comprising the steps of: determining optimum write power associated with radial positions over the whole writing area of the disk by computation (column 8, lines 5-16); adopting the determined result as optimum write power information associated with the radial positions of the disk (column 8, lines 5-16). Jacobs et al. does not but Nagasawa et al. obtaining the push-pull signal amplitude (purpose is served by the signal determining the linear velocity of the light spot) at at least two measuring positions in a radial direction of an optical disk before writing (column 6, lines 27-31); on the basis of the obtained push-pull signal amplitude, adopting the determined result as optimum power information associated with the radial positions of the disk (according to graph shown in figure 7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the concept of using the amplitude of the push-pull signal at different radial positions to obtain the

optimum write power as taught by Nagasawa et al. into the system of Jacobs et al. The motivation would be to reduce tracking errors (column 2, lines 30-46).

Regarding claim 3, Jacobs et al. discloses a write power control method of an optical disk drive, said method comprising the steps of: determining optimum write power associated with radial positions over the whole writing area of the disk by computation (column 8, lines 5-16); adopting the determined result as optimum write power information associated with the radial positions of the disk (column 8, lines 5-16), and then storing the optimum write power information (column 8, lines 5-10); obtaining disk position information of an optical pickup at the time of writing (column 8, lines 44-51); with reference to the obtained disk position information and stored optimum write power information associated with the radial position of the disk, setting optimum write power at a writing position of an optical disk; and controlling laser power of the optical pickup so as to become the set optimum write power (column 7, lines 35-64). Jacobs et al. does not but Nagasawa et al. obtaining the push-pull signal amplitude (purpose is served by the signal determining the linear velocity of the light spot) at at least two measuring positions in a radial direction of an optical disk before writing (column 6, lines 27-31); on the basis of the obtained push-pull signal amplitude, adopting the determined result as optimum power information associated with the radial positions of the disk (according to graph shown in figure 7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the concept of using the amplitude of the push-pull signal at different radial positions to obtain the optimum write power as taught by Nagasawa et al. into the system of Jacobs et al. The motivation would be to reduce tracking errors (column 2, lines 30-46).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 4-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

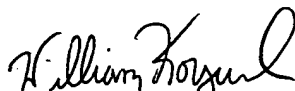
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Parul Gupta whose telephone number is 571-272-5260. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, from 9:30 AM to 7 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bill Korzuch can be reached on 571-272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PHG
12/4/06


WILLIAM KORZUCH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600